

Testimony of

Heather Smith

New Fairfield Educator

Before the

Education Committee

March 15, 2023

Good afternoon, Senator McCrory, Representative Currey, Senator Berthel, Representative McCarty, and members of the Education Committee.

I testify today in support of House Bill 6884. This bill takes important steps toward addressing the educator shortage in Connecticut, showing educators that theirs is a respected profession, and ensuring that our classrooms and schools can provide the best possible education for our students.

I highly support many of the proposed structures, including any that will compensate teachers fairly for their hard work, including salary increases, prep time, etc. The only measure I don't support is raising the kindergarten start age. I would not have been 5 as of September 1 because of my November birthday, but I would have been bored to tears spending one more year in preschool. It should be left to the discretion of teachers and parents as to whether their child is ready to enter kindergarten.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

